

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the failure to recognize what free use of the airwaves means in a democratic society. A smear piece does not deserve this coverage. It would be different if Sinclair were airing a documentary like "Fahrenheit 9/11" soon before or afterward, but there is no plan to do so.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.